

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for sending an electronic Email communication to recipients, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of an electronic Email communication and of at least one recipient to receive the electronic Email communication;

determining whether multiple recipients of the electronic Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

when if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing the electronic Email communication;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the electronic Email communication without sending the electronic Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the electronic Email communication from a recipient, sending the electronic Email communication to the recipient.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

when if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the electronic Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the electronic Email communication.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

tracking the sending of the electronic Email communication to the recipients; and

when the electronic Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored electronic Email communication.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:  
when it is determined that the electronic Email communication has been sent to  
all of the recipients and that none of the recipients have indicated that the electronic Email  
communication is to be saved, deleting the stored electronic Email communication.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:  
when it is determined that the electronic Email communication has been sent to  
all of the recipients and that all of the recipients have indicated that the electronic Email  
communication can be deleted, deleting the stored electronic Email communication.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:  
determining a period of time for which the electronic Email communication will  
be stored; and  
when the determined period of time has expired, deleting the stored electronic Email  
communication.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying of a  
recipient of the electronic Email communication involves sending a distinct indicator electronic Email  
communication to the recipient.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 including retrieving notifying  
instructions for a recipient, and wherein the notifying of the recipient is performed according to  
the notifying instructions.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying  
instructions are supplied by a sender of the electronic Email communication.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are  
supplied by the recipient.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are determined automatically based on past interactions with the recipient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions indicate that the notifying is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for sending an electronic Email communication to a plurality of recipients, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of the electronic Email communication and of including an indication of the plurality of recipients to receive the electronic Email communication;

storing a single copy of the electronic Email communication;

notifying each of the recipients of the electronic Email communication without sending the electronic Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the electronic Email communication from a recipient, sending the electronic Email communication to the recipient.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including:

tracking the requests for the electronic Email communication from the recipients; and

after all of the recipients have requested the electronic Email communication, deleting the stored electronic Email communication.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the deleting is performed only when none of the recipients desire continuing access to the electronic Email communication.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including automatically sending the electronic Email communication to a non-recipient authorized to access the electronic Email communication.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including retrieving sending instructions for a recipient, and wherein the sending of the electronic Email communication is performed according to the sending instructions.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the sending instructions are supplied by a sender of the electronic Email communication.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the sending instructions indicate that the sending is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

Claims 30-36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to send an electronic Email communication to recipients by:

receiving an indication of an electronic Email communication and of at least one recipient to receive the electronic Email communication;

determining whether multiple recipients of the electronic Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

when if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing the electronic Email communication;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the electronic Email communication without sending the electronic Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the electronic Email communication from a recipient, sending the electronic Email communication to the recipient.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system is further controlled by:

when if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the electronic Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the electronic Email communication.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system is further controlled by:

tracking the sending of the electronic Email communication to the recipients; and when the electronic Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored electronic Email communication.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system is further controlled:

when it is determined that the electronic Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that the electronic Email communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients, deleting the stored electronic Email communication.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for sending an electronic Email communication to recipients, comprising:

a communication distributor for receiving an indication of the electronic Email communication and of at least one recipient to receive the electronic Email communication, for determining whether multiple recipients of the electronic Email communication have been indicated in the received indication, for storing the electronic Email communication and notifying each of the multiple recipients of the electronic Email communication without sending the electronic Email communication to the recipients when if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated, and for sending the electronic Email communication to a recipient in response to a request for the electronic Email communication from the recipient.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 41 wherein the communication distributor is further for sending the electronic Email communication to a single

recipient without waiting for a request for the ~~electronic Email~~ communication ~~when if~~ it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 42, further comprising:

a communication tracker for tracking the sending of the ~~electronic Email~~ communication to the recipients, and for deleting the stored ~~electronic Email~~ communication when the ~~electronic Email~~ communication has been sent to all of the recipients.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 43, further comprising:

a communication tracker for deleting the stored ~~electronic Email~~ communication when it is determined that the ~~electronic Email~~ communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that the ~~electronic Email~~ communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients.